(d) the total number of vacant posts in the departments related to protection and surveillance of rail lines; and

(e) the details of the scheme to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents decreased from 194 in 2007-08 to 177 in 2008-09. Out of 177 consequential train accidents, 24 accidents have been inquired by the Commission of Railway Safety and the balance 153 were inquired by the Departmental Committees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) About 41,000 vacancies are existing in the categories deputed primarily for maintenance of tracks. Steps are being taken to fill up these posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Release of balance funds for various rail lines

1809. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kotipalli-Narsapur; Nandyal-Yerraguntla; Kakinada-Pitampuram; Cuddapah-Banglore; Obulavaripalli-Krishnapatnam; Munirabad-Mahaboobnagar lines, indicating the year of their sanctioning, total cost, expenditure incurred, amount sanctioned, year-wise and the balance fund required for each of these projects;

(b) the reasons for delay in releasing the balance funds; and

(c) by when the balance funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) The details of projects alongwith their year of sanction, total anticipated cost, expenditure incurred upto 31.03.09, outlay provided for 2009-2010 is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Total Cost	Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.09	Outlay in Budget 2009-10	Balance Funds required
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kotipalli-Narsapur New line	2000-01	695.00	9.42	0.01	685.57
2.	Nadyal-Yerraguntla New line	1996-97	429.49	207.12	51.00	171.37
3.	Kakinada-Pithapuram New line	1999-2000	85.51	0.01	0.01	85.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Cuddapah-Bangalore New line	2008-09	1000.23	0.01	29.00	971.22
5.	Obulavarpalli-Krishnapatnam New line	2006-07	732.81	95.00	50.00	587.81
6.	Munirabad-Mahboobnagar New line	1997-98	497.47	47.43	20.00	430.04

The project of Kakinada-Pithapuram new line not yet received requisite approval. The project of Obulavaripalli-Krishnapatnam is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through Special Purpose Vehicle. There are constraints of funds and projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Rail line between Pandharpur to Miraj in Solapur

†1810. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the work of rail line between Pandharpur and Miraj in Solapur district of Maharashtra is moving at snail's pace and due to this, it would not be completed in next 10-15 years; and

(b) the deadline fixed to complete the said rail line and the funds allocated for this purpose year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) The work of gauge conversion of Miraj-Pandharpur is targeted for completion by March, 2010. This is part of Miraj-Latur gauge conversion project on which an expenditure of Rs.521.51 crore has been incurred up to 31.03.2009. An outlay of Rs.100 crore has been provided for the project in Budget, 2009-10.

Railway bridge over Yamuna

1811. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to limited capacity of railway bridges over Yamuna in Delhi, the incoming trains from East and South are required to halt at the outer and get delayed; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir. The two existing bridges on River Yamuna in Delhi do not have any capacity constraint and the trains are not required to halt on account of the bridges.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.